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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON THE EICHMANN CASE FROM GERMAN MAGAZINE

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## FORWARD

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Following is a translation of two articles from Der Spiegel /The Mirror/, Hamburg. Date of issue, page, and author, if any, are given under individual article headings.

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## I. EICHMAN, THE MAN WITH THE FINAL SOLUTION

No. 25, 15 June 1960  
Pages 20-33

Unsigned Article

The heat of the Palestinian summer day, simmering outside on the pavement, could be felt even in the airconditioned chamber. The agenda of the Jerusalem parliament called for a routine debate on the budget. The atmosphere was listless. Only a few men with stiff, military bearing kept exchanging meaningful glances in the visitors gallery and seemed to be in the grip of a hidden tension.

It was 1500 when Israel's grand old man, David Ben-Gurion rose to make a statement. Twice he threw back his head with its unruly, white mane before he began his speech. Then his words came rather hesitatingly: "I must inform the parliament that Adolf Eichmann, one of the greatest nazi war criminals, is in Israeli custody and that he will be tried in Isreal. Eichmann, along with the other nazi leaders, was responsible for the so-called final solution of the Jewish problem, meaning the extermination of six million European Jews."

The prime minister seemed to be listening to the echo of his own words. One of the deputies, the ancient Rabbi Nurock, fainted with a groan that could be heard all the way to the doors. The men in the visitors gallery, who were officers of the Army Counter-intelligence Service, rose gingerly and left.

That was the end of the stillness; after that, pandemonium reigned in the chamber. Some deputies shouted and ran along the aisles, while others just numbed at their desks in front of them.

Half an hour later, on Monday, 23 May 1960 business in Jerusalem was at a standstill. An hour later, this 2-million-man nation, living in the strip of land between Lake Genezareth and the Mediterranean coast, had only one topic of conversation: Eichmann. Two hours later, the telephone lines of the Israeli police were jammed with calls from people volunteering for the job of executing this "beast."

The other day, the German-language newspaper Wort der Woche (Word of the Week) published a two-page questionnaire asking readers what should be done with Eichmann. One-eyed Minister of Agriculture Moshe Dayan, the strategist of the blitzkrieg against Egypt, wrote the following: "This is how all your enemies will perish, Israel." A certain Mrs. Jonah Kahan, who had come to Palestine during the days of the Turkish occupation, came out with a similar Old-Testament utterance: "Even if he had done all his murdering way back in the times of King David, he would still have to be executed today."

The other readers reacted in the same vein, only the words they used were different. Hawazelt Ron, a songstress born in Aden, fell back on her domestic cooking experience and said: "Treat him like a fish; roast him with pepper and salt."

Not since the Sinai campaign in the late autumn of 1956 had

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the children of Israel felt more like one big family. There were two predominant feelings.

There was triumphant satisfaction with the efficiency of the Israeli Secret Service, which had succeeded in chasing a man halfway across the world and finally catching him quietly in another country.

And there was the torment of the horrible memories which unleashed a groundswell of hatred against Eichmann and, quite naturally, against his German political companions whose presence is suspected in all countries hostile to Israel.

This wave, which the Ben-Gurion government had fully calculated, was soon cited as the reason for keeping the world's number one prisoner under wraps.

Josef Nachmias, inspector general of the Israeli police, stated that this was only way to guarantee the prisoner's safety.

No one else on Israeli soil except Tel Aviv district judge Emanuel Jadid-Halewi, who 4 hours prior to Ben-Gurion's sensational statement had issued the arrest warrant against Karl Adolf Eichmann, was given a glimpse of the man whose name was in all the headlines. No one else could establish any kind of contact with this man.

Police chief Nachmias reported on Eichmann's condition at regular press conferences; he stated that Hitler's chief hangman was astonished at the good treatment he was getting and that he was ready to help the Israelis in establishing the historical truth about the crimes of the Third Reich. But: "The place where Eichmann is being held will remain top secret."

Of course, it is not only the fear that spontaneous lynch justice might rob the Israeli authorities of their precious prisoner that is causing them to maintain all this secrecy; Eichmann is being held in the interrogation camp of the Israeli Counterintelligence Service in order to be coached for his restitution performance.

Both the headquarters and the methods of the Counterintelligence Service are some of the best-kept secrets in Israel. And this is only as it should be, for in this service the Jews have for the moment an instrument whose efficiency is feared not just in the Near East. A former assistant of Admiral Canaris, the chief of the former German Counterintelligence Service, said the following on this subject. "The Russians are first and the Americans are second. The Israelis are at this time in fourth place, right behind the Vatican."

The Israeli Secret Service is divided into two organizations whose lower and middle echelons are strictly separated but which are completely coordinated in their central headquarters.

First, we have the Counterintelligence Service which is attached to the Ministry of Defense and which operates exclusively in Israel; it handles counterespionage and operations against Arab saboteurs.

Then we have the actual "Security Service," which is directly under the prime minister and which -- like the Central Intelligence Agency of the Americans -- carries out secret missions abroad.

The interrogation camp, in which Eichmann is being held, belongs

to the Counterintelligence Service of the Army which has its "technical" center there. It is located exactly along a line extended from the takeoff runway of Lydda Airport and is a 30-minute drive from the airport itself and about a 45-minute drive from Tel Aviv and Jaffa. (See appended map).

All the plane passengers can see in the desert sands beneath them are the abandoned ruins of a former Arab settlement which had been destroyed by artillery fire during the Palestine war of 1948. The ruins have been left standing for purposes of camouflage. Under these ruins, cells, washrooms, toilets, and interrogation rooms, were laid out. The camp consists of about twenty such buildings.

Eichmann is being held in building No. 1 which, in addition to the two standard cells, has a subterranean dungeon. His cell is lighted day and night because it has no windows and because it is equipped only with fist-size openings serving as air ducts.

There is a silent guard sitting in the cell day and night. Two guards with cocked submachine guns are stationed in the anteroom. In addition, building No. 1 is guarded by two outside sentries. Four dogs are chained to the walls of the courtyard.

Eichmann is not allowed to talk to his guard. He does not have any chance to talk to any of his fellow prisoners. He must exercise for thirty minutes every day; he must do this on the floor of a cement basin which adjoins the house and whose high walls block the view of the surrounding area. The temperature in the tank is about fifty degrees and is about forty degrees in the cell.

The Israelis are prepared in case Eichmann should make trouble. If he does, he will be moved to the underground cell which is about five m long and 3 m wide. The furniture consists of a concrete block which serves as a bed, and two smaller concrete blocks serving as table and chair, respectively. Next to the toilet and wash basin, there is a grill-covered outlet for the electrically operated ventilation system which can also feed hot air into the room. In this manner the jailers can manipulate the prisoner's memory as well as his desire to talk.

During the night, Eichmann must sleep with his face toward the guard. The moment he shifts from this position, he is awakened.

So far, the Israeli Secret Service did not have to use any "tough" methods during Eichmann's interrogation. The shock of the sudden arrest, his forcible removal to Israel, as well as the complete isolation in his white-washed environment of silent hostility that could not be increased any more intense than it is, make the prisoner answer all questions readily and even gratefully.

If he keeps on talking until the trial, Eichmann's physical condition would seem to be assured for the future. This would also guarantee Eichmann's personal appearance before the tribunal, since he will by that time be so entangled in his own statements and so tired that there will be no reason to assume any changes in the way the trial has been planned so far. Using Eichmann's vast knowledge, the court and

the prosecutor can then try to throw light on those portions of the case which they want to have illuminated and which undoubtedly can compromise many a quasi-honest citizen of the Federal Republic. They can graciously skip over those portions where they deem silence to be advisable in the interests of the reputation of individuals Israeli or of the Israeli government.

On 26 May, the German-language newspaper Jedioth Chadashoth in Tel Aviv carried a highly significant dispatch. This was the same day on which it reported in great detail on the arrest of Eichmann's assistant Krumey, a postwar druggist in Korbach, who had been arrested in the Federal Republic; this was the first arrest connected with Adolf Eichmann's appearance. In this dispatch, the newspaper voiced some very definite expectations. "It is clear to all informed persons that the economic relations between the Federal Republic and Israel must not be cut off after 1963 (by which time the Federal Republic will have paid three billion marks in reparations). Rather, German aid to Israel must be continued in another form, for instance, in the form of aid to underdeveloped countries."

Ben-Gurion made the following statement on this subject. "The world public must be reminded of the past deeds of the nazis."

But the Eichmann trial is intended to justify the moral obligation of the Federal Republic for further payments to Israel by appealing to an international audience which is indignant over Germany's crimes. This trial will also serve to strengthen Israel's still threatened position visavis its hostile Arab neighbors propaganda-wise.

Ben-Gurion: "There is no doubt that dozens and hundreds of nazis -- both Germans and Arabs -- are today in the service of dictators in neighboring countries."

In fact, there is no doubt that big-nosed Gamal Abd el-Nasser in faraway Cairo will join the taxpayers of the Federal Republic as one of the real victims of the Eichmann trial. It is precisely this idea of the "final solution" which Eichmann developed in the years after 1938 and which the Arab politicians are today reviving once again -- of course, only as a figure of speech for the moment. Ben-Gurion's special court in Jerusalem will show how at least once in the history of mankind the delirious dreams of sick minds produced a hitherto unimaginable reality.

Final solution -- that means a gruesome realization of the battle cry "Death to the Jews" with which Hitler's brown storm troopers marched through the cities of Munich, Frankfort, and Berlin before Hitler seized power -- very much like the masses incited by Nasser are marching through the streets of Cairo and Damascus. That this battle cry was never to become reality in the literal meaning of the word, no one could know at the time.

The program of the Nazi Party was definitely antisemitic but it essentially corresponded to the so-called moderate antisemitism which was traditional in bourgeois-nationalist circles since the infiltration of the Eastern Jews from Poland and Galicia. Nobody wanted these Jews

and nobody wanted them to have any influence; everyone wanted them to go back where they had come from. But nobody wanted to kill them.

When Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach was asked to comment on Hitler's antisemitic program in Nuernberg, he made the following highly significant statement. "If you are going to buy a good horse, you have to accept a few shortcomings as part of the bargain."

These shortcomings were accepted almost without objection, at least for the moment; of course, the solution of the Jewish problem, such as it was planned by "Good Horse" Hitler, was only revealed gradually. The first, locally limited persecutions in February and March 1933 consisted of an assault on a Dresden synagogue and of a party-controlled boycott of Jewish stores on 1 April 1933 which was expressly approved by Bishop D. Otto Dibelius; these initial measures were followed by a period of several years in which action against the Jews took the form of laws and regulations passed by the government. Jewish civil servants were retired before their time; later on, they were deprived of their retirement pay, University professors were fired, lawyers were disbarred, and Jewish public health service physicians were allowed to treat only Jews.

The most important step along these lines was represented by the Nuernberg laws of 15 September 1935.

The "Reich Citizenship Law" distinguished between citizens of German or related blood, on the other hand, and alien "subjects" -- i.e., Jews and Gypsies -- on the other hand; in practice, this law created two classes of human beings.

Then there was the "Law on the Protection of German Blood and German Honor" which forbade marital and extramarital relations between these two newly created classes of citizens; such relations were called "racial disgrace" and were liable to severe punishment.

This program for stripping German Jewish citizens of their civil rights was illegal because Hitler, in 1933, had taken an oath to uphold the Weimar Constitution which guaranteed all citizens equal rights. This legal-illegal program expressed only the minimum requirements of the race fanatics which were published primarily in Der Stuermer (The Assault Trooper) (1935 circulation: 436,000 copies). This magazine was intended primarily as a means to accelerate the emigration of the Jews, which was the original and comparatively humane version of the final solution.

On 7 November 1938, 17-year old Herschel Grynszpan shot German legation counsellor Ernst vom Rath in Paris; this was the incident which the antisemites, who were disappointed with Hitler's earlier Jewish policies, had been waiting for. The public and coordinated persecution of the Jews began.

On 11 November 1938, Heydrich reported to Goering: "One hundred and ninety-one synagogues were set on fire and another 76 were destroyed completely. About 20,000 Jews, seven Aryans, and three foreigners were arrested. We have reports on 36 deaths and 36 seriously injured.

The unofficial revenge for the shooting by Grynszpan during the "nights of broken glass" on 9 November 1938 was followed by official action of 12 November. Goering, then still the number-two man in the government, was ordered by Hitler to organize the "coordinated and comprehensive liquidation" of the Jewish problem. The result was there for anyone to read in the Reichsgesetzblatt (Reich Legal Gazette) (November and December 1938).

All Jewish enterprises were immediately to be handed over to Aryan managers, with the stipulation that they were to be sold to non-Jews.

The "anti-German" attitude of the German Jews was punished by making the Jews contribute one billion marks; this sum was used for armament purposes.

The insurance companies were not allowed to repay the Jews for the damages they had suffered from the SA; the Jews had to pay for this damage themselves.

The Jews were forced to sell their jewelry and art objects to government purchasing agencies at low prices.

Jews were not allowed to own automobiles or to take out a driver's license.

Jews were forbidden to go to the movies, the theater, concerts, swimming pools, and public parks; there was a curfew for all Jews from 2000 to 0600.

Jewish children were no longer allowed to attend public schools.

All Jews had to pay a special tax.

Lease or rental contracts between Jews and non-Jews were forbidden.

Commented Goering: "This is really going to hit them hard" and "I wouldn't want to be a Jew in Germany now."

After this regulation had been issued, Goering delegated the job of "solving the Jewish problem" to Reinhard Heydrich, who soon tried his own, highly profitable emigration system on about 45,000 Viennese Jews.

Heydrich put wealthy Jews in his concentration camp; he would give them permission to leave the country if they would at the same time deposit ransom and emigration money for two or three poor Jews.

Meanwhile, it was not only the hardboiled antisemites of the party and of the SS, but also the respected conservative politicians who made their services available for this "humane final solution." Reich Bank President Hjalmar Schacht, appointed expediter for the promotion of Jewish emigration by Hitler on 5 January 1939, conducted negotiations with an international emigration committee in London and submitted a plan for the financing of this forced emigration, which for the moment was approved by the German chief of state.

Schacht thought that the property of the German Jews should be frozen and that it should be used as security for international loan for the financing of the orderly settlement of all Jews from Germany within a period of three to five years. This bold idea of the genius

of financial dialectics failed on 20 January 1939, when the Reich Bank president refused to start printing money, had a disagreement with Hitler, and departed. Thereafter, Hitler rejected the idea of making Jewish property available for any emigration plans.

Four days after Schacht's departure, Goering authorized SD chief Heydrich to set up a Central Office for Jewish Emigration in order "to solve the Jewish problem through emigration or evacuation." Through this decision, Goering opened the way for an insignificant SS captain who was eventually to be the general expediter of the final solution of the Jewish problem by shipping long trainloads of Jews to the gas chambers of Auschwitz, Chelmno, Maidanek, and Belzec (Sic). This man was Adolf Eichmann.

On 19 July 1938, the personnel files of the SS described the chief of Bureau IVB 4 (Jewish Problems) of the Domestic Department of the Central Reich Security Office as a selfconfident and correct SS man. Overall racial profile: "Nordic-Dinaric"; special talents "negotiating, speech making, organizing." SS membership number: 45326; Nazi Party number: 899895.

His friend, Dieter Wisliceny, whom Eichmann later on sent out to manage the deportation of Slovak Jews, called Eichmann a "pedantic and systematic subordinate official. He immediately prepares a report on every conversation for his file in order to be covered at all times," said Wisliceny: "Eichmann's always used to hide behind his boss."

Adolf Eichmann was born in 1906 in Solingen in the Rhineland but his character was formed in his youth in the same German-Austrian region in which his leader had grown up. In Linz, Eichmann's father advanced to the position of manager of the Streetcar and Electric Power Company; at the Linz Senior High School, Adolf Eichmann was taught by the same teacher who several years before had been trying to drill some German history into the head of his pupil Adolf Hitler from Braunau.

Like Hitler, Eichmann was definitely not one of those Nordic types who merely by virtue of their blond hair and blue eyes were destined to be the masters of the "Jewish and Eastern subhumans." Like his leader, Eichmann was not successful in civilian life. The bowlegged engineering student Adolf Eichmann left the Austrian Federal Institute of Electrical Engineering, Machine building, and Civil Engineering after only two years and without taking his final examinations. He became a traveling salesman, first for an electrical appliance firm and later for the Shell Company which fired him in June 1933. Said Eichmann: "Because I was a member of the Nazi Party. The German consul in Linz on the Danube, Dirk von Langen, confirmed this fact to me in a letter."

Using this statement by the consul as proof of his national socialist views, old party fighter Eichmann moved to Germany and soon became a member of the Austrian Legion of the SS in Dachau. On 1 October 1934, he was detached as clerk to the Free Mason files of the SD in Berlin. Said Wisliceny: "He filled out file cards on the typewriter.

A year later, Eichmann was working in the museum of the SD Central Office, stimulated by the collection of Jewish art objects and coins, he began to study Hebrew. Under file symbol II/112/10-1, his office on 18 June 1937 made application to have SS sergeant Eichmann "take further lessons from a rabbi" and requested "authorization for funds" (about 3 Marks an hour).

This rather unusual request was justified with the argument that it would be a good idea to have at least one SD member who understood Hebrew. SS chief Hmmler, to whom this application was submitted, did not at all like the idea of having one of his men take lessons from a Jew. He disapproved the application and Eichmann continued to study without a rabbi.

The scant knowledge which he acquired in his free time was sufficient to open a big career for this selftaught man. In 1936 he was transferred to the Jewish section of the SD, department II/112. By 1937 he had worked himself up to the position of expert on zionism and traveled to Palestine and Egypt in order to establish contact with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, the number-one enemy of the Jews in the Near East.

After the occupation of Austria, Eichmann became chief of the Central Office for Jewish Emigration in Vienna. Within a few months he managed to deport so many Jews that Heydrich ordered him to set up a similar office in Prague after the occupation of Czechoslovakia. In 1939 Heydrich made him chief of the Jewish section of the newly organized Central Reich Security Office (RSHA).

Three years later, on 20 January 1942, Eichmann was a member of the illustrious circle of high ministerial officials and SS officers in Berlin-Wannsee who, together with Heydrich, were discussing a plan for the "overall solution of the Jewish problem" in the areas of Europe that were under German control. Now the idea was no longer emigration, as a result of which 360,000 Jews had left Germany since 1933 and in the course of which 177,000 had been deported from Austria and Czechoslovakia since 1938.

Said Heydrich at Wannsee: "We're going to line up the Jews in long columns, separating men from women; those Jews who can work will be marched to the Eastern regions, building roads as they go along; of course, in this process many of them will be eliminated due to natural causes. Those who remain will undoubtedly be the tough ones and will have to be treated accordingly, because they represent the cream and because they could serve as nucleus of a Jewish revival." Adolf Eichmann was ordered to organize these transports.

Of course, the radical solution -- extermination -- had been started in practice several months prior to the Wannsee;talks. The armies, which had been fighting in Russia since the summer of 1941, were followed by SD detachments which cleaned out the Jews in the rear areas in two ways.

The traditional antisemitism of the local population, especially of the Ukrainians and White Russians, was whipped up by means of propaganda until it exploded into pogroms (Lvov, Kovno).

These detachments cleared the rear areas of partisans, commissars, and Jews through mass executions -- a method of extermination which was recently dramatized in the motion picture "On the Green Banks of the Spree River" and which was met with general disbelief, even though it was thoroughly documented.

Here is an excerpt from a statement made by the commander of Detachment D (Southern Ukraine), SS General Ohlendorf, in Nuernberg in 1946. "We had the elders of the Jewish community round up all Jews under the pretext that they were to be resettled. After registration, the Jews were gathered in one place. From there they were driven to the place of execution. The place of execution usually was an anti-tank ditch or some other natural ditch."

The four detachments were led by Police and SS General Otto Ohlendorf, who was the chief of the Criminal Police, as well as by SS Brigade Leader Arthur Nebe (Detachment B), Gestapo official and SS Brigade Leader Franz Walter Stahlecker (Detachment A), and Police General and SS Brigade Leader Dr. Otto Rasch (Detachment C). Their units consisted of specially trained SD and Gestapo officers, police regiments, field security police, and special SS units.

For at least one of these four detachment leaders -- Stahlecker -- command of this squad of hangmen meant a demotion. He had been the chief of the Division of Foreign Intelligence Services in the SD; he knew that Heydrich had sent him to the front "to see what he would do" and he was ready to act accordingly. He distinguished himself through his great toughness. As early as 15 October 1941 he reported to Himmler that 135,567 persons had been liquadated in his zone of operations -- the Baltic States -- "in accordance with the basic directives." In contrast to this, Arthur Nebe was able to chalk up only 45,475 victims of his special squads during the first five months of the Russian campaign.

These mass executions by firing squads of course could not be kept secret for any length of time and aroused unwelcome attention; Eichmann and his helpers therefore introduced a new, silent method of liquadition.

As early as 25 October, Dr. Ernst Wetzel, chief of the Race Policy Office of the Nazi Party and assigned to Rosenberg's Reich Ministry of Occupied Eastern Territories since the start of the Russian campaign, was able to report to the Reich Commissar for Eastern Territories, Gauleiter Hinrich Lohse, that the technique of mass murder would soon be greatly improved. Wrote Wetzel "Division Chief Brack of the Office of the Fuehrer has declared himself ready to help in the preparation of the required facilities and in the procurement of the gassing equipment. I would like to point out that Major Eichmann, the specialist for Jewish problems in the Central Reich Security Office, approves of this method. In view of the existing situation, there should be no hesitation in eliminating Jews who are unable to work by means of the methods proposed by Brack."

Wetzel did not hesitate to praise the advantages of this new

method in complicated bureaucratic German. "In this manner it ought to be possible to forestall such incidents as occurred during the firing squad executions of Jews in Vilna; such executions can hardly be approved because they must be accomplished in the Open."

The methods devised by Victor Brack of the Fuehrer's Office had been expressly approved by Adolf Eichmann and had been tested successfully even before they were used in the East. They involved the use of buses in which mental patients were taken for a ride and killed by the exhaust gases under the euthanasia program from 1939 to 1941. The personnel operating these buses were camouflaged under the designation "public service fund for institution care."

Contrary to Wetzel's statement, Brack was not the inventor of these gas chambers on wheels, but only a witness when Criminal Police Commissioner and SS Major Christian Wirth used them for the first time in the Brandenburg Institute. Said Wirth at the time: "We have no sick people any more, we only have dead people."

Wirth's murder bus enterprise flourished in the Lublin area with many modifications and improvements until a man appeared who at last introduced the final technical solution of the problem of killing. In 1941, the then SS Captain Rudolf Hoess was ordered by Himmler to expand the Auschwitz concentration camp into a mass extermination camp. Said Hoess: "Because it was the camp closest to a railroad line." Hoess thought from the very beginning that the exhaust gas method was outdated, inefficient, and too expensive.

During an inspection trip through the Kulenhof extermination camp at Lodz and the Treblinka extermination camp (on the Bug River), Hoess found his opinions confirmed: "I observed the whole operation at Treblinka. They had several chambers there; each of them held several hundred people and was set up right along the railroad tracks. In an engine room right next to it, there were engines of large trucks and of tanks which were started up. The exhaust gases of the engines were fed into the chambers through pipelines and the persons in these chambers were killed. It used to take more than half an hour until all was quiet in these chambers."

Here is his criticism. "I was told that the engines were not running uniformly all the time and the exhaust gases were therefore often not strong enough to kill everybody in the chamber. Many were only unconscious and had to be shot later on."

By way of experiment, Hoess dropped Zyklon B, a hydrocyanic acid preparation, into the cells of his camp. Said Hoess: "Death occurred in the jampacked cells immediately after the pellets had been dropped." The hydrocyanic acid, which had originally been intended as an insecticide, was now used for a new purpose -- the extermination of "human vermin." The death mills of Auschwitz-Birkenau were now in a position to run at full speed; their extermination capacity was 16,000 Jews, gypsies, and commissars per day.

Adolf Eichmann, the man in charge of the final solution, in the meantime was combing Europe for Jews from his desk and shipped his victims to the East.

On 6 October 1943, Himmler told a meeting of Reich and Gau leaders in Poznan: "It is easy to say that all Jews must be exterminated. But, Gentlemen, the man who has to do the job will find it very difficult; he will find that it will tax his abilities to the utmost."

Men like Hoess and Eichmann were of course not bothered by too many scruples; on the contrary, Rudolf Hoess, the camp commander of Auschwitz, boasted in Nuernberg that he had  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million Jews on his conscience. Barely one year later, while being tried by a Polish court, he reduced the number of his victims to 1.3 million; the British investigator Gerald Reitlinger thinks that this figure is still too high.

Reitlinger calculates that "just about one million people perished in the gas chambers and camps of Auschwitz" and that of this number at least "550,000 - 600,000 died immediately after their arrival." Of course, we will never know the exact figures because Hoess destroyed all material "which might in any way give information on the total number of persons exterminated;" he usually burned the reports after each "action." Said Hoess: "I destroyed all material myself."

Reitlinger was equally skeptical of other successes reported by SD hangmen who wanted to report exaggerated extermination figures in order to make themselves look good in the eyes of their superiors. In a conversation with SS Major Hoettl in Budapest's Hotel Majestic in August 1944, Eichmann boasted that 6 million Jews had been exterminated; Reitlinger thinks that this figure is as unlikely as the casualty list of 5.7 million submitted to the Nuernberg Tribunal by the Jewish World Congress at a time when there were hardly any reliable data available.

As an Englishman, Reitlinger is of course free of any suspicion of trying to make the figures look better; German authors, of course, would automatically be suspected of such a tendency in any objective investigation they might make. By comparing the number of Jewish inhabitants in the area occupied by the German armies with the number of emigrated Jews and the number of survivors, Reitlinger concludes that at least 4,194,200 and at most 4,581,200 Jews fell victim to the policy of extermination.

Said Reitlinger: "More than one-third of the European Jews who disappeared fell victim, not to direct murder, but to overwork, pestilence, hunger, and misery." The latter were some of the indirect methods of extermination in the concentration camps. "More than one million were shot by the execution squads or were killed during raids on Ghettos."

"Despite its tremendous symbolic significance," says Reitlinger, "Auschwitz probably accounted for less than one-fifth of all victims."

Despite painstaking research, even this compilation is not complete. It will be impossible to determine the exact number of victims so long as we do not have statistics of the Jewish population of the Soviet Union and of Rumania; the number of survivors is estimated at between 1,600,000 and 2,650,000 for the Soviet Union. This is one

point where Eichmann might help with some additional information.

In 1945, only about 1.2 million persons of the Jewish faith were living in those parts of Europe that had been overrun by Hitler's armies. They lived in compact communities in parts of Hungary and Rumania; they were to be found in groups of partisans in Poland; they were slave laborers liberated from concentration camps; and they were those Jews who were able to go into hiding with the help of certain connections or who managed to survive due to their great imagination and tenacity.

It was especially the members of this latter group who, immediately after the German collapse, began to look for the murders of their co-religionists. They set out on their task, at first, without any system at all but with the most detailed knowledge of the character and methods of their mortal enemies and, above all, fired by a hatred that was as justified as it was boundless.

Immediately after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, these individual searches by individual survivors of Eichmann's murder mills were expanded into a systematic worldwide hunt for the fugitive hunters. Now this effort was being conducted by one of the best secret services, whose strength does not lie in its organization and financial resources, but in the almost limitless number of unofficial volunteer helpers in the five continents; every Jew feels himself obligated to do his part in seeing to fulfillment of Jehovah's law, at least as far as the hangmen of Israel are concerned.

The search had to be started where the trail of SS Lieutenant Colonel Eichmann had vanished on 3 May 1945, that is, in the Salzburg area. On that day, Eichmann, a section chief in the Central Reich Security Office, stopped his convoy at Alt-Aussee in order to report to his boss Kaltenbrunner who had set up his last headquarters in this idyllic tourist spot.

But Kaltenbrunner cold-shouldered the hangman. "That guy is going to compromise us with the Americans," he said.

Lieutenant Colonel Eichmann disappeared and did not turn up again until the morning of 23 May 1960 in the form of a haggard, half-bald man with protruding ears and a long, dried-out face. He appeared in an old house in the Israeli port of Jaffa and told District Judge Jadid-Halewi: "Yes, I am Adolf Eichmann."

All the Americans caught in Salzburg on 8 May 1945 was an Air Force Pfc by the name of Hirtl. This Hirtl told them that he had destroyed all his papers as ordered. Because of his blood group tattoo, Eichmann later on, while being held in a prisoner-of-war camp, stated that he was a lieutenant of the Waffen-SS. After his release he made his way to North Germany, where he looked up the brother of one of his SS buddies; this man quite unsuspectingly gave him a job as a lumberjack.

Professional manhunter Eichmann was smart enough to refrain from any contact with his family in Linz. In 1950 he obtained a Red Cross

refugee certificate and went to Argentina, where Evita and her Peron were still granting asylum to old nazi fighters.

Soon the new immigrant had his wife Vera and their three sons Klaus, Adolf, and Keiter follow him. In Tucuman he was given a personal identity card in the name of Ricardo Clement. Mrs. Eichmann, ne Liebl, rented a modest apartment in Buenos Aires in the name of Catalina Clement. In the spring of 1960, the family moved into a sort of do-it-yourself bungalow in the suburb of San Fernando.

In the beginning, Ricardo Clement worked for the German-Argentinian industrial consultant firm of Capri. This company, which employed Clement until it went bankrupt, was managed by a former SS officer named Fuldrner and had been set up on the basis of the slogan "Our honor is our faithfulness" solely for the purpose of helping former SS men.

Eichmann managed to eek out a bare living. Finally, he was able to find a berth with "Mercedes-Benz-Argentina," where Israeli agents found him in February 1960.

This astonishing discovery could of course hardly be called the culmination of a manhunt planned down to the very last detail, such as some highly imaginative persons have imputed it to the Israeli Secret Service. But we must neither underestimate nor overestimate this effort. The Israelis were not lying in wait in Linz, year after year, until Mrs. Eichmann one day arrived from Argentina in order to visit some of her dear friends; nor did they tail her on her return trip until she had led them to her husband's hideout.

The Security Service was not working in any romantic fashion; it worked methodically and used its anonymous army of Jewish amateur detectives in a frugal manner. It was a Brazilian Jew who discovered the first hint about Clement's real identity from one of his acquaintances and who passed the tip on. The rest was routine work for Ben-Gurion's sleuths.

They compared the photo attached to the Clement file in Tucuman with the only picture they had of Eichmann. The similarity was striking. Of course, Ricardo Clement did not have the delicate, almost girlish air which characterized the youthful SS man. But the almond-shaped eyes and the upper lip with its slight leftward twist sufficed to establish that Ricardo Clement was the long-sought Adolf Eichmann.

The search picture, which the Israeli Secret Service had worked with, had been obtained in 1946. This shows how long ago the revenge-seeking individual Jews had been working on this case. The picture was obtained in Linz by Asher Ben Nathan -- cover name: Arthur -- who is, today the director of the Israeli Security Service and the liaison man between Ben-Gurion and the Secret Service as a whole.

"Arthur" had been tipped off by SS Colonel Wisliceny that Eichmann had been visiting a girl friend occasionally until 1945. Arthur found this woman in Urfahr on the Danube, on the left bridgehead of the Linz bridge. He searched her house at night and found Eichmann's photo. The picture was reproduced in hundreds of copies and distributed through-

out the world. It was used as the only picture of Hitler's most successful murderer at the Nuernberg trial.

After the Israelis had succeeded in spotting Eichmann in Buenos Aires, they were faced with the following alternative.

They could either ask for the extradition of this nazi hangman by proving that Ricardo Clement was Adolf Eichmann and by referring to a principle of international law concerning war crimes which had been established at Nuernberg.

Or they could crudely violate international law and seize Adolf Eichmann by force.

Israel decided on the second alternative. It did so, first of all, because it would have been difficult to justify the extradition request from a formal juridical point of view. After all, Eichmann had committed his crimes neither on Israeli soil nor against the State of Israel.

Second, even if the Israelis had succeeded in effectively justifying the extradition request, the entire process would have taken a very long time. During this time, Eichmann could have disappeared again -- or at least there was a possibility that he might.

And furthermore, the Israelis knew that Buenos Aires was never in any hurry to extradite German war criminals, even when the legal situation was absolutely clear. On 5 June 1959, for instance, the Friburg in Breisgau administrative court issued an arrest warrant against the German citizen Josef Mengele, Ph. D. and M.D., born on 16 March 1911 in Guenzburg, Bavaria, "formerly residing in Freiburg in Breisgau, Sonnenhalde no. 87, now residing in Virrey Ortiz 970 Vicente Lopez - FCNGMB Pcia. de Buenos Aires for suspicion of murder and attempted murder." The Freiburg prosecutor charged Dr. Mengele with having killed countless numbers of people during medical experiments while an SS captain at Auschwitz. These charges have been fully substantiated. Nevertheless the Argentine government to this very day has taken no action on the repeated extradition requests of the Federal Republic. The unofficial reason was that this was a political crime.

Ben-Gurion decided to have Eichmann picked up. The time and manner of this kidnapping was determined by the Secret Service.

Tel Aviv decided on 10 May because the special plane (4 X-AGE) of the Israeli airline El Al was to bring the Israeli delegation to the Argentinian Independence Day celebration in Buenos Aires and was to return on the next day, shortly after midnight. This would give the agents a full ten days to prepare Adolf Eichmann so that he could be processed through customs and passport control at the airport without arousing attention. In case this maneuver should not succeed on 10 May, the kidnappers would still have enough time to try again on the next day or the day after that.

The plan succeeded on the very first try. On 11 May, Eichmann did not show up at his place of work; on 24 May Catalina Clement read

in the morning papers the statement of Ben-Gurion to the effect that Eichmann was in Israeli custody. His son Klaus phoned a number of journalists and charged that Eichmann had been kidnapped in Argentina. The fact that no one believed him at first was due to a skillful maneuver on the part of the Israelis.

In Tel Aviv, police chief Nachmias stated that the manner and place of Eichmann's seizure were official secrets and would never be announced. But at the same time, Israeli agencies, in an effort to distract attention from Argentina, fed a good dozen newsmongers with the most contradictory information on the Eichmann raid and themselves started rumors which for many days filled the pages of the world's newspapers, including Der Spiegel. They spread the story that Eichmann had been seized in the Sheikdom of Kuwait or in Damascus.

The chairman of the American Antidefamation League, Benjamin Epstein, in a sudden attack of coreligionist ecstasy, even lost himself in the assertion that Adolf Eichmann had had a plastic surgery operation performed on his face and that he had gone to Israel for a reunion with one of his amours whose slave he had been for years. This noble woman allegedly did not hesitate to inform the Israeli authorities of Eichmann's tender advances and the date of his arrival.

But even these highly imaginative Judith-and-Holocfernes stories were unable to prevent the truth from coming out in the end. By the beginning of June, no one doubted that the Israelis had seized Eichmann in Argentina.

In the ensuing dispute on the international aspects of Eichmann's capture, the West German newspapers acted with due tact; but the American newspaper were less considerate. Wrote the Washington Post: "The planned trial will serve neither the rule of law nor the inviolability of the individual's rights... Israel has no judicial authority to try this case... Let the Germans, who produced this creature, take upon themselves the disgrace of having to try him."

The serious New York Times interpreted the situation of the (sovereign) state of Argentina in the following words. "The country in which Eichmann was caught will find it very unpleasant that its citizens can be smuggled out by Israeli agents at any time."

Alluding to rumors to the effect that Eichmann's family had disappeared a few days after Ben-Gurion's statement in the Israeli parliament, this newspaper printed the following warning. "It would be extremely embarrassing for the Israelis if it should turn out that Eichmann's wife and sons were murdered in order to wipe out any trace that might lead to the place where Eichmann was arrested."

As a matter of fact, Eichmann's family was not seen after 3 June and the sharp denial the Israeli press office was not able to dispel those somber assumptions which the New York Times had uttered so bluntly.

The murmur of protests overseas did not abate when it was suddenly asserted that an Argentine nazi organization had spirited Eichmann's wife and children away. After all, such an -- imaginary --

fighting association of well-known nazis would have no plausible reason for spiriting the prematurely aged German-Bohemian Vera Liebl -- who was not much to look at -- out of Argentina.

Vera Eichmann had never had anything to do with her husband's nasty political business. It could therefore hardly be hoped that she would be of any help in giving information on the career and specialized activity of this wanted murderer.

In order to end the disputes about the commando mission to seize Eichmann, Nahum Goldmann, president of the Jewish World Congress, suggested that Eichmann be tried by an international court in Jerusalem. The Ben-Gurion government thought that this prominent American scientist "should ask all countries who have suffered under nazi occupation to furnish judges for this court."

But Ben-Gurion, who sees in the Eichmann trial something like the mystical fulfillment of his life's work, remained adamant. He told Goldmann: "It is perhaps the first act of historical justice in the history of mankind when a small nation, surrounded by many enemies, is in a position to try one of its principal enemies on its own territory."

This stubborn attitude may be politically wise or unwise. It is certain that Eichmann's kidnapping is a crude violation of Argentine sovereignty; but is is equally certain that Israel has the right to try Eichmann, now that he is in Israeli hands.

The paradox in the Israeli actions in the Eichmann case lies in the fact that the prerequisite for this trial -- his capture -- could be met only through a clear violation of the law, that is, through kidnapping. But if the trial itself is to have the desired moral effect, it must be based on strictly legal procedures. According to all rules of logic, one precludes the other in this case. But in the eyes of patriarch Ben-Gurion, the law of the people of Israel in this particular case towers high above all international law.

Israeli law not only permits but also commands the trial of this murderer of Jews who is now in Israeli hands. Of course, Eichmann did not commit any of his crimes on Israeli territory. This is impossible, to begin with, because the state of Israel was not born until May 1948. The Israeli charges against Eichmann are based on a special law which the Israeli parliament passed in 1950 specifically for the punishment of national socialist war crimes -- which were of course committed abroad.

These are exclusively crimes against generally recognized principles of human society. A parallel to this is formed in Germany by the concept of "crimes against humanity" which pertains to the violation of natural law norms, that is to say, norms which are higher than man-made laws.

Thus the Israelis do not think that their special law of 1950 conflicts with the prohibition against retroactive laws; rather, they argue that the "Magna Charta" of the lawbreaker -- which states that no punishment maybe decreed without the prior establishment of a

corresponding law -- is not valid where principles of law are involved.

The law of 1950 was passed properly and has a correct legal foundation also in the light of international law; it is not only practically unlimited in its timely span of application (retroactivity), but it also goes beyond the normally valid territorial boundaries limiting the applicability of Israeli law.

Israel punishes only those deeds that were committed on Israeli territory. But the law against the nazi criminals would be meaningless as a legal policy measure if it were confined by these limitations; so far, it has been applied only against a few Jewish concentration camp block leaders who had been found and arrested in the country itself.

Of course, the murderer of the European Jews could theoretically also be handed over to a third country which would claim him for trial, but he could not be extradited to the German Federal Republic.

The prerequisite for the surrender of a person subject to Israeli jurisdiction is constituted by "an agreement which provides for reciprocal treatment in the extraadition of lawbreakers."

By this we must understand an international treaty, such as it has so far not been concluded between Germany and Israel. Of course, Eichmann could be handed over to Argentina, with which Israel has just signed an extradition agreement. This could be done if Buenos Aires can prove Eichmann's Argentine citizenship and if it would then demand his extradition. In this case, the Argentinians would have to claim this world-famous mass murderer as their own.

Ben-Gurion definitely profited from the fact that no democratic government is in a position to start a big legal fight over a person such as Karl Adolf Eichmann.

Thus Eichmann is being interrogated without any interference due to the arrival of his own lawyer. As a matter of fact, counterintelligence chief Herzog's men took care of this point.

Here is their latest and hitherto greatest success. Prisoner Eichmann, who is awakened time and again, gradually seems to become convinced that he must help the Israelis in the completion of their history book -- and that he really wanted to make this private restitution contribution even when he was living in Argentina as Ricardo Clement.

This is the only way we can understand Ben-Gurion's astonishing declaration on Tuesday of last week with which he provoked the Argentine government, following its protest against Eichmann's kidnapping. According to the Israeli text, Eichmann supposedly entered the military camp at Lydda out of his own free will; the activity of the Israelis allegedly was confined to making it possible for this former SS lieutenant colonel to make the flight free of charge and without any risk.

In this note, the Israeli government boasts that it has a declaration to that effect by Eichmann. Here is the highly moral wording of this alleged statement. "I, the undersigned, Adolf Eichmann, hereby state the following of my own free will: Now that my true identity has

been established, I realize that there is no sense in my trying to avoid justice any longer. I therefore declare that I am willing to travel to Israel and to face a court there."

But that was too much for the Argentinians. In an extremely sharp note, they demanded that the former SS lieutenant Colonel be returned to Argentina within one week. They based their demand, not on the extradition treaty, but on the sovereignty violation committed by Israel. If Eichmann was not returned, Argentina would accuse Israel in the Security Council of the United Nations.

In addition, Buenos Aires demanded the punishment of those Israeli agents who had violated Argentine law through Eichmann's kidnapping.

Of course, the Israeli government will not accede to this demand for a number of reasons -- among others, because the Secret Service is now the only hope of salvaging Adolf Eichmann without a debacle for Ben-Gurion's Jerusalem monster trial.

If the interrogators in building No. 1 of the Secret Police barracks were to succeed in making this theory of voluntary surrender so much a part of the flesh and blood of this destroyer of Jews that he would confirm it at an international press conference, Israel would be relieved of any and all diplomatic embarrassment; and Argentina's protest protest about the violation of its sovereignty would be meaningless.

But it is highly unlikely that the Israelis will return Eichmann as a result of Argentine pressure, even if the interrogation wizards of counterintelligence chief Herzog should fail. Minister of Justice Rosen announced that the trial would probably take place early in 1961. The subject matter of the trial is to be confined to Eichmann's last and most rabid appearance -- his actions in Hungary.

For reasons of trial procedure and out of political considerations, the Israelis are basing their indictment of Eichmann chiefly on the events in Hungary.

Until 1944, Eichmann preferred to remain in the background as anonymous wirepuller and to direct the mass liquidations from his desk in Berlin; he had all important directives signed by Gestapo chief Mueller. But during the deportation of the Hungarian Jews, he stepped into the limelight for the first time as the principal responsible official. The evidence is therefore overwhelming.

If the deeds of which Eichmann is accused in this connection are brought out in court in Jerusalem, it will be relatively easy for the Israelis to maintain their moral pressure on the Federal Republic and thus to assure themselves of further economic aid. In contrast to the occupied and conquered territories -- where Eichmann's liquidation squads were able to fill the mass graves without interference during the war -- they were not able to do much in the territory of Germany's all Hungary without the approval of the Hungarian government. It is therefore likely that the Tel Aviv court will try to prove that Eichmann could never have carried out these plans without the effective support of the Foreign Office. This fact could be proved against State Secretary von Steengracht and his Budapest Ambassador Veesermayer

already during the trial of Foreign Office personnel at Nuernberg. At that time it was possible to prove this without having to use the chief prosecution witness, Adolf Eichmann, in the witness box.

Against this background, we must read Eichmann's threat that he would implicate leading politicians and high officials of the Federal government. Until March 1944, when Eichmann appeared in Budapest and set up his headquarters in the Hotel Majestic, Hungary was a country within the German sphere of influence which had been able to prevent the deportation of its Jewish citizens. The only concession Admiral Horthy was ready to make was the deportation of some 10,000 Jewish inhabitants of those parts of Slovakia, the Carpatho-Ukraine, and Yugoslavia which he had been given as a reward for his alliance with Hitler; he considered those people to be foreign Jews not entitled to his protection.

But when the Soviet troops approached the Hungarian frontier and when the Hungarian government began to extend peace feelers toward the Western Allies, Hitler saw no further reason to respect the wishes of Horthy. He forced the Regent of Hungary to accept a government which was in practice acting on orders of Reich Plenipotentiary Veesenmayer.

A few weeks after starting on his new job -- on 24 April 1944 -- Edmund Veesenmayer was able to report to Reich Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop that his mission was progressing successfully. The Reich plenipotentiary wired Berlin that 10,000 Jews were shipped to Auschwitz per day as of 15 May.

As a matter of fact, Eichmann -- who was now directing the Jew hunt with the help of his assistants Dieter Wisliceny and Herman Krumey from Budapest -- succeeded in deporting about 380,000 Jews until 30 June. Most of these people died in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

The trains containing more fodder for the death mills of Hoess and his Zyklon-B were still rolling when the curtain rose for the last act in the drama of European Jewry. Eichmann suggested the following macabre deal to Joel Brand, a representative of the Budapest Jews: "I'll sell you one million Jews for 10,000 trucks, 1,000 tons of coffee, and a little soap."

As was to be expected, this business deal fell through. Lord Moyne, Great Britain's Minister of State for the Middle East, received the Jew from Budapest; but he was neither in a position nor willing to facilitate the retreat of the beaten German army in the middle of the fifth year of the war by handing over 10,000 trucks.

Said Moyne to Brand: "And what am I going to do with a million Jews?" A few months later, in November 1944, his lordship was dead.

The shots that killed him were fired by extremist zionists who had for years been blaming Britain for having been ruthlessly stingy with its immigration visas for Palestine and for thus being responsible for the death of thousands of Jews.

But the trial of Eichmann will not only throw light on the attitude of the Western Allies in these critical years. It will also

rekindle an intra-Jewish debate which has smoldered since Joel Brand's mission. The question was how, out of 250,000 people approximately 1,600 -- for whom the ransom money had been furnished and whose lives were thus spared -- could have been so selected that the remaining 248,400, who were doomed to die, would feel that they had been dealt with fairly.

It was this impossible problem of squaring the circle which Dr. Rezsö Kastner and Andreas Biss faced in June 1944, after the failure of Joel Brand's mission. Against a per capita quota \$1,000 they swapped 1,600 Hungarian Jews from their barter customer Eichmann in Budapest. Later on, Kastner was accused in Israel of giving preferred treatment to relatives and friends and slipping them tickets to freedom. On 3 March 1952, he was shot down on a Jerusalem street. The culprits -- extremists Zionists.

The wounds which this murder inflicted on the then still forming Jewish national consciousness has not healed to this very day. The slightest contact will painfully rip it open again.

Indeed, this is the price the Tel Aviv government will have to be prepared to pay for this "unique trial in the history of mankind" (Ben-Gurion). Together with the bloody laundry of Hitler's handman, it will also be necessary to wash the dirty laundry of Israeli rivalries and hatreds.

The New York Times printed a warning along these lines as early as 29 May. "Israelis with varied personal experience with the Nazis during World War II fear that a long and detailed public trial of Adolf Eichmann will do more harm than good ... They fear the repercussions on Israel if it is shown, step by step, how freedom could sometimes have been bought for Jews but was not. They fear the effect of such a horrid report on their children."

Even today, before the start of the trial, there were a number of unexpected reactions which are likely to hit not only the morale of Jewish children.

On Wednesday, 1 June, unknown persons painted swastikas on the walls of London synagogues. These symbols served as embroidery for a clumsily scrawled slogan hitherto unknown in Britain -- "I like Eichmann."

## II. JUSTICE ALSO FOR THE HANGMAN

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Moritz Pfeil

We cannot deal with Adolf Eichmann on the basis of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Entire truckloads of gold teeth, broken out of the skulls of the dead victims, were shipped to the vaults of the SS, but he can die only once.

There is no doubt that the death penalty for this man would be more than justified under any legal criterion. Nevertheless, the way the Israelis handled the case so far is cause for concern. Justice is supposed to emerge miraculously from a crass violation of law which a democratically elected government is supporting with its full weight. This is not going to work too well.

If the thing to do here was to capture Eichmann in order to bring him to trial, a commando unit of volunteers could have staged this kidnapping with the silent approval of the Ben-Gurion government; no one would have suspected the latter of trying to disassociate itself from the work of this assault squad. Eichmann would then have had to be handed over to the Poles or the Hungarians, where he committed most of his crimes and where he could expect to be sentenced to death. Or he would have been tried in the Federal Republic, which is the primary authority competent in this case and which would have sentenced him to life imprisonment because we in Germany once again do not have the death penalty, thank God.

But the big show trial in Tel Aviv -- developing out of a violation of law and staged by a country that did not exist at the time of Eichmann's crimes and on whose soil Eichmann did not commit these crimes -- is imprudent in the practical interest of Jewry and unwise from the point of view of general morals.

How can there be an impartial trial if the still gaping wounds of intra-Jewish disputes must be touched (or spared)? How can there be any implementation of international law -- on which an endangered country like Israel is dependent (e.g., when Israeli ships want to use the Suez Canal) -- if governments demand the right to go on kidnapping expeditions.

Because of its very special position, Israel met with well-meaning understanding throughout the world when it attacked Egypt in violation of international law. At the time, this was excused because of Ben-Gurion's critical position. But where was the unavoidable necessity for the government to violate international law in the Eichmann case? And how can we believe that the trial will be legitimate if the kidnapped prisoner, who is doomed to die, in true and sincere Moscow fashion announces that he was kidnapped out of his own free will?

One cannot deny the guilt-laden Germans the right to voice their

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opinion in this matter. They have a duty to speak up in this matter. The federal government would be forced by federal law to request the extradition of Eichmann. It could do this with a kind of guilty tact and in the expectation that the request would be denied anyway. Wherever a German citizen is tried, there is not question of opportunism (Sic).

It may be correct and it may be important to unfold the Hitlerian "final solution of the Jewish problem" in a show trial. If the Israelis want to do that by themselves, they could either subject him to a "superhearing" without verdict, followed by extradition to a competent country in Central Europe, or they would have to extradite him from the very beginning.

Respected Anglo-Saxon newspapers have advocated the idea that Eichmann be tried in the Federal Republic. The motive here is not to make difficulties for the Federal Republic. Rather, the feeling in the Anglo-Saxon countries is that an illegal end of the man who organized the murder of Jews would cause a deep and lasting moral wound.

With great fear, we read Israeli reports according to which a Jewish doctor supposedly killed Hitler's evil genius Martin Bormann with a lethal injection into the heart, in violation of the oldest oath of mankind. Let us say it again: the important thing here is not the spent and unimportant life of Eichmann and Martin Bormann (who presumably has been dead since 1945). The important thing here is the moral integrity of the Jews who are developing a national conscience through the State of Israel; this moral integrity cannot be a matter of indifference to the country whose people have committed so many sins against the Jews.

Hence, the certainly odd desire that Eichmann, if he is to be tried in Israel, be given only the maximum penalty permitted in the Federal Republic. There should not be the slightest impression that the Jews have taken revenge on their hangman and murderer.

- END -

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